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IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE  
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## **BEST PRACTICES FOR CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN THE ASEAN REGION**

### **A PRIMER FOR MILITARY FORCES**



# Series of Best Practices Pamphlets by CFE-DM



- Civil-Military Coordination in Foreign Disaster Relief: Best Practices for Affected & Assisting States
- Civil-Military Coordination in Foreign Disaster Relief: Best Practices for Information Sharing
- Civil-Military Coordination in Foreign Disaster Relief: Best Practices for Joint Operations Centers (JOCs)
- Civil-Military Coordination in Foreign Disaster Relief: Best Practices for Joint Task Forces (JTFs)
- Civil-Military Coordination in Foreign Disaster Relief: Best Practices for Logistics
- Best Practices for Inclusive Gendered Security in Natural Disasters
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- Best Practices for Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response in U.S. Military Operations
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- Best Practices for Civil-Military Coordination in Disaster Management in the ASEAN Region

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## Cover photos:

May, Master Sgt. James. U.S., Indonesian and Multinational Relief Efforts Provide Hope, Future (2 of 6). 6 October 2018. <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4803661/us-indonesian-and-multinational-relief-efforts-provide-hope-future>

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Purpose

The purpose of this pamphlet is to provide a handy guide for understanding the civil-military coordination landscape for disaster management (DM) within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and among ASEAN member-states (AMS). It also suggests pathways for non-ASEAN militaries to coordinate with the regional organization, the AMS, and AMS militaries. As disaster-affected AMS are expected to make tailored requests for assistance from ASEAN's DM agencies and the international community, this resource may be useful for military forces from outside the AMS.

## Scope

The scope of this pamphlet comprises foreign disaster relief (FDR) and other peacetime DM operations that may be undertaken by the United States (U.S.) Department of Defense (DoD) or other countries' defense establishments. This pamphlet will not cover conflict situations.

This pamphlet builds upon established DoD doctrine, particularly those provided in Joint Publication (JP) 3-29 on Foreign Humanitarian Assistance (FHA). Moreover, it rests on the sovereign choices of the AMS and their binding agreements. The best practices featured here align with that doctrine and those agreements, and they have been illuminated through interviews with subject matter experts (SME) who are familiar with civil-military coordination within ASEAN, in the U.S. DoD, or in the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) during past FDR operations.

This pamphlet focuses on cases in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR), especially the 10 AMS. However, it may integrate points applicable to other regions and regional organizations.

## Organization

The first half of this guide discusses ASEAN's organizations for DM and the documents and decision-making tools that ASEAN uses. The second half provides micro-case studies of disaster events that impacted AMS. These studies discuss AMS' requests for assistance and how international support was requested and coordinated.

## Key Points

ASEAN has agreements, offices, and processes to support AMS' civilian and military agencies' disaster preparation and response

- Under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), AMS are legally bound to reduce disaster loss, respond collectively to disasters, and support resilience
- The AADMER led to the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP), a means to unify AMS' disaster response actions
- The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) is the focal point for coordinating DM among AMS and partners
- The AHA Centre trains and deploys the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT), which can deploy to support an affected AMS during a disaster response
- AMS' military forces commonly respond within their countries, and the ASEAN Militaries Ready Group (AMRG) on humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR) will integrate AMS' defense sectors into DM programs
- The ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Exercise (ARDEX) occurs every other year and allows AMS and ASEAN bodies to review and potentially revise the SASOP

Non-ASEAN military forces involved in a DM activity in an AMS most commonly coordinate bilaterally via established civil-military processes

- AMS' national civilian leadership retain overall control over disaster responses within their countries
- The AHA Centre delivers coordination, disaster information management, resource management, and knowledge outreach, including to non-ASEAN stakeholders
- Non-ASEAN military involvement in ASEAN / AHA Centre preparedness activities is common
  - U.S. DoD agencies and other ASEAN partner states' civilian and military establishments commonly participate in the ARDEX
  - ASEAN partner militaries commonly participate in ASEAN-ERAT training courses and workshops

# ASEAN Overview

There are 10 AMS, shown in the map in Figure 1.<sup>1</sup>



Figure 1: Map of ASEAN Member-States

## Hazards

AMS are exposed to hydrometeorological, geological, and anthropogenic hazards. Active volcanoes frequently erupt, and tectonic plate boundaries generate earthquakes and tsunamis. Both volcanoes and faults can trigger mudslides, landslides, or rockfalls. Weather patterns in the Pacific and Indian Oceans generate storms, tropical cyclones, monsoon systems, and dry periods. The results also include droughts, floods, and fires. The cumulative effects of climate change can be expected to exacerbate soil erosion, sea level rise, and the spread of vector-borne illnesses, and they may worsen industrial and technological hazards that can spread pollution, damage eco-systems, and undermine livelihoods and economies.

## Organization

The ASEAN Summit and ASEAN Coordinating Committee are top-level venues for decision-making by political leaders of the AMS. The Summit appoints the Secretary-General who oversees the Secretariat, which manages the organization's day-to-day work. During a disaster, the Secretary-General may serve as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (SG-AHAC)

to ensure strategic-level coordination and provide a focal point for all non-ASEAN entities – for example, United Nations (UN) agencies, donor countries, multilateral financial institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGO).<sup>2</sup> In 2023, after Cyclone Mocha struck Myanmar, the SG-AHAC was activated to manage political and diplomatic complexities surrounding ASEAN’s participation in response and recovery activities due to conflict considerations.<sup>3</sup> Only rarely has the SG-AHAC activated.<sup>4</sup>

Under the committee of ASEAN national leaders, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) oversees the Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (DMHA) Division, which is given impetus by the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on DM (AMMDM), an annual session that is also the meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the AADMER.<sup>5</sup> The DMHA Division manages cooperation, supports the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), and monitors implementation of the AADMER. The DMHA Division also supports the AHA Centre. Figure 2 illustrates the general institutional structure for DM within ASEAN.<sup>6</sup>

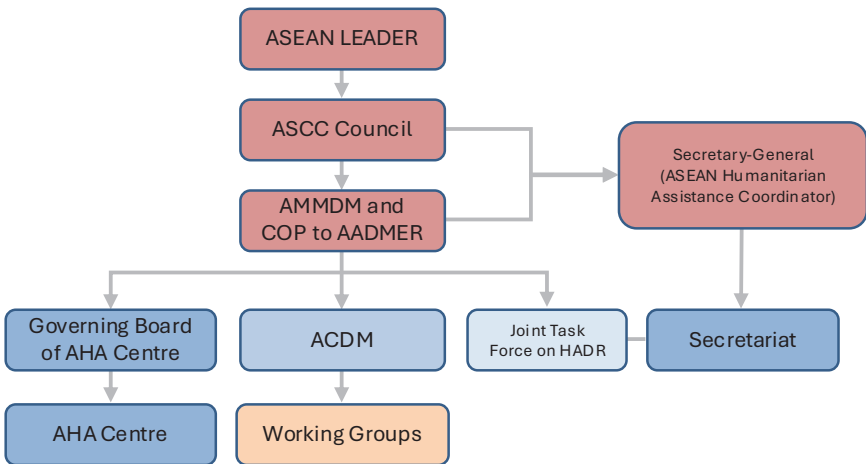


Figure 2: Map of ASEAN Member-States

The ACDM comprises leaders of the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) of each AMS. As the lead body for HADR, the ACDM coordinates its work with other relevant ASEAN bodies through the Joint Task Force on HADR, which integrates the chairs of several ASEAN senior officials’ meetings. The ACDM reports regularly to the AMMDM and the COP to the AADMER.<sup>7</sup> The ACDM’s working groups can cover various facets of DM as needed to meet the demands of the 5-year AADMER work programs. In past years, these working groups have covered civil-military coordination.<sup>8</sup>

Separately, the ACDM focal points – representatives from each NDMO – act as the governing board for the AHA Centre. The AHA Centre serves as the

physical and information space where AMS and partners – states, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society – coordinate resources and actions during a response. When a disaster is imminent or has occurred, the AHA Centre can deploy an In-Country Liaison Team (ICLT) to the affected state(s).<sup>9</sup> The ICLT generally will integrate with the NDMO(s) of the affected state(s) and will assist in coordinating between affected and assisting states and agencies.<sup>10</sup> The ICLT may be followed by an ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT), which supports the affected state’s government and humanitarian actors and delivers information to the AHA Centre Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The AHA Centre may also activate the WebEOC, an on-line platform for information exchange among AMS requesting or offering assistance.

## Regional Agreements and Mechanisms

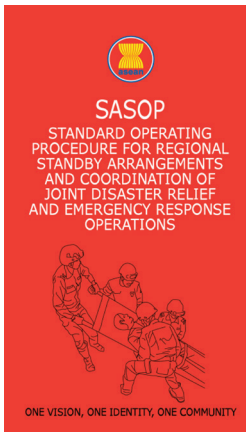
Coordination of disaster response in an AMS is the responsibility of the affected state. The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint commits AMS to mutual support and capacity building for inclusive, resilient development.

### Declarations and Documents

#### ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response

The AADMER dates to 2009 and is a legally binding commitment by AMS to reduce disaster loss, respond collectively to disasters, and support resilience. The AADMER is the foundation for subsequent institutions, plans, and standard operating procedures (SOP). The agreement institutionalizes leadership of the affected state(s) for all response operations, and it recognizes the role of regional military forces in DM; parties to the AADMER agree to certain conditions for military personnel involved in a response.<sup>11</sup>

#### Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations



The SASOP (cover shown at left) was mandated by the AADMER as a means to unify actions taken by AMS and the AHA Centre during disaster response. It provides guidance and templates for Standby Arrangements, procedures for operations and for facilitating and using military and civilian resources, and a methodology for exercises. Under the SASOP, each AMS’ NDMO has designated and affirmed a national focal point through which intra-ASEAN DM communication flows.<sup>12</sup> Every other year, the AHA Centre convenes an ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Exercise (ARDEX), which has the goal of reviewing and potentially revising the SASOP.<sup>13</sup> ARDEX 2023,

hosted by Indonesia, included 300 participants from AMS as well as observers from ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) countries and Timor-Leste; the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and various NGOs also took part.<sup>14</sup> The U.S. DoD / CFE-DM participated in scenario development for ARDEX 2023. ARDEX 2025, to be hosted by Cambodia, is slated to welcome civilian and military participants from the ASEAN +3 countries – Japan, the People’s Republic of China (PRC), and the Republic of Korea.<sup>15</sup>

### **ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan**

The ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP) provides a shared framework for delivering a disaster response by mobilizing assets and capabilities from within AMS and from external sources. It details types of response capacity that may be needed and encourages AMS to earmark resources and make them available for mobilization via Standby Arrangements.

### **Standby Arrangements**

Under the AADMER and the AJDRP, the AMS are encouraged to voluntarily earmark assets and capacities, which may be made available for disaster response and relief via standing regional arrangements. These arrangements most commonly include search-and-rescue personnel and resources, military and civilian assets, emergency stockpiles, and expertise or technologies. Each NDMO communicates to the AHA Centre the type and status of the earmarked assets, and the AHA Centre communicates with affected and assisting states regarding these assets.

**Best Practice:** Understand what regional resources and expertise are already available via lists lodged with the AHA Centre.

### **Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines for the Use of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response Operations**

The Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines were published in 2011 and resulted from the Asia-Pacific Conference on Military Assistance to Disaster Relief Operations (APC-MADRO), which began in 2005 and brought together 16 regional countries intent on delivering actionable guidance to military commanders and staffs who might be involved in DM. All AMS were involved in the APC-MADRO. The Guidelines reinforce the principles of the Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief and tailor them for the context of the region.<sup>16</sup> Although not an ASEAN document, the Asia Pacific Regional (APC-MADRO) Guidelines can help address coordination challenges during a major multi-lateral response.

# Agencies, Offices, and Tools

## AHA Centre

The AHA Centre, founded in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2011, is responsible for all activities under the AADMER. It reports directly to its board, made up of the leaders of the 10 AMS' NDMOs. It facilitates cooperation and coordination among AMS, partners, and other stakeholders.<sup>17</sup> Photo 1 shows the AHA Centre's Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS) at its Jakarta headquarters.<sup>18</sup>

The AHA Centre hosts a military representative (MILREP), who is from the armed forces of the AMS holding the ASEAN Chair at any given time. The MILREP can serve as a focal point for AMS and non-ASEAN members to coordinate military issues via the AHA Centre, and the MILREP can carry requests to their own military force. However, the



Photo 1: AHA Centre Disaster Monitoring and Response System

MILREP is not a focal point for overall civil-military coordination within the AHA Centre.<sup>19</sup> In recent disasters, the MILREP has played a role in facilitating requests for and offers of civilian and military assistance, as in the response to Cyclone Mocha (2023),<sup>20</sup> after which Singapore and Indonesia military aircraft transported goods from ASEAN stockpiles to Myanmar.<sup>21</sup>

## ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on HADR

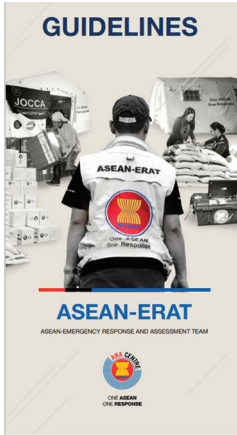
In 2015, the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) developed the concept of the AMRG on HADR, and it was adopted the next year<sup>22</sup> with the expectation that it could assemble AMS' collective military capacities and to ensure that AMS' defense sectors are integrated into regional DM processes and programs.<sup>23</sup> As of November 2024, the AMRG on HADR was still developing its SOP, and there is some expectation that it will smooth civil-military coordination among AMS in terms of requests for and offers of assistance that may include AMS' military personnel or assets.<sup>24</sup> In a case where the AMRG on HADR function is activated, it would be mobilized from among AMS' military forces, deploy to the affected state in coordination with the affected state's NDMO, and maintain coordination with the AHA Centre, potentially via the MILREP.<sup>25</sup>

As with all ASEAN processes and tools, the AMRG would be an “opt-in” activity for AMS militaries, and its deployment would have to be requested by an affected state. Moreover, while the AMRG on HADR has worked closely with ARF

partner militaries, the AMRG itself would include only AMS armed forces. It would coordinate with both the affected state's NDMO and the AHA Centre.<sup>26</sup> Some observers project that the Singapore Armed Forces Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre (Changi RHCC) may become a focal point for military-military coordination, as Singapore is also an AMS.<sup>27</sup>

**Best Practice:** Activate partnerships with ASEAN member-states' military forces in pre-disaster periods via information sharing, exercises, or expert exchanges.

### ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team



ASEAN-ERAT is a rapidly deployable team that supports an affected state during the initial stages of a disaster response. Managed and trained by the AHA Centre but collectively owned by AMS, the ASEAN-ERAT is made up of individuals drawn from AMS' NDMOs, government and military agencies, and civil society. There are more than 350 ASEAN-ERAT members, representing all 10 AMS. They are all trained to conduct standardized assessments, logistics, information management, on-site coordination, and emergency telecommunications.<sup>28</sup> Since its founding, ASEAN-ERAT has matured, in part through training with global partners, including the U.S. These engagements build ASEAN-ERAT's pre-disaster skills via knowledge sharing, technical advice,

and training.<sup>29</sup> As of 2024, the informal concept of the "local ERAT" is gaining traction based on the impulse of localization present within the DM community. This "local ERAT" could provide a venue for more involvement of AMS military forces in ASEAN-ERAT training to ensure localized civil-military coordination during response.<sup>30</sup>

**Best Practice:** Share knowledge to strengthen ASEAN member-states' civilian and military responders' capabilities.

### Joint Operations and Coordination Centre of ASEAN

ASEAN-ERAT can, upon request of the affected state, set up a Joint Operations and Coordination Centre of ASEAN (JOCCA). The JOCCA is an on-site, physical structure to house coordination processes and personnel from ASEAN or the AMS. Its presence supports the affected state by acting as a single point of service to interface with ASEAN actors involved in a response. Moreover, it can provide space for interaction and information sharing among AMS civilian and military personnel, UN agencies and other international organizations, and non-ASEAN civilian and military responders.<sup>31</sup>

## **Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN**

The Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) allows swift delivery of relief items from ASEAN stockpiles to disaster-affected AMS. The DELSA integrates emergency stockpiles, institutional capacity for logistics, and communication. The AHA Centre has partnered with the UN World Food Programme (WFP) – UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) on technical aspects of the DELSA, and the AHA Centre coordinates directly with AMS' NDMOs to distribute stockpiled relief goods.<sup>32</sup>

## **ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise**

ARDEX provides AMS a venue to practice, evaluate, and review the SASOP collaboratively and with the participation of relevant UN and other international organizations. ARDEX iterations comprise pre-exercise scenario and concept planning; in-exercise execution of coordination, offers of and requests for assistance, and interoperability of response mechanisms; and post-exercise reviews and revisions to the SASOP.<sup>33</sup> The U.S. DoD and other ASEAN partner states' civilian and military stakeholders have participated in ARDEX iterations as part of regional and global preparedness efforts.<sup>34</sup>

# Case Studies

## **Central Sulawesi Earthquake (2018)**

On 28 September 2018, a series of tremors struck the Central Sulawesi Province of Indonesia and generated a tsunami. Ground under areas of the province liquified, causing landslides. The coastal communities of Palu and Donggala were the worst affected, with more than 2,200 people killed and 211,000 displaced. Overall, 1.5 million people were affected as the earthquake, tsunami, liquefaction, and landslides damaged roads and airport and port facilities. The Government of Indonesia and provincial authorities led the response with Indonesia's NDMO (BNPB) and regional DM offices coordinating the response. The Indonesian government requested that the AHA Centre serve as a conduit for international offers of assistance.<sup>35</sup>

The response to the earthquake and its aftereffects was led nationally, enhanced regionally, and supported internationally. The AHA Centre provided both field coordination and informational support. In the field, the ASEAN-ERAT, JOCCA, and DELSA were all activated by the AHA Centre to support the BNPB. ASEAN and partner responders were expected to coordinate through the JOCCA daily. Meanwhile, the AHA Centre established the Joint Operations and Coordination Centre for International Assistance, co-located with the BNPB's National Assisting Post (Pospenas) at Palu, where responders and relief items were registered, assessments and data were coordinated and analyzed, and stakeholders could access or submit information for situational awareness

and planning. Finally, at Balikpapan, in East Kalimantan Province, across the Makassar Strait from Palu, the AHA Centre supported the BNPB's establishment of a hub for international assistance at the Balikpapan International Airport. There, international teams could liaise with the BNPB and other national authorities, and civil-military coordination mechanisms were established as the AMRG was operationalized.<sup>36</sup>

The U.S. armed forces were among 18 national militaries that responded,<sup>37</sup> each non-ASEAN military force operated in support of their respective civilian lead agencies through bilateral civil-military arrangements. After the U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia declared an emergency, USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (now the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance [BHA]) led the U.S. Government response in close coordination with the Indonesian government, local authorities, and international humanitarians. U.S. and other foreign militaries helped ensure that supplies, airlift, shelter, and medical support reached affected communities. Photo 2 shows U.S. and Australian military responders handling supplies at the Balikpapan airport.<sup>38</sup>



Photo 2: U.S. and Australian Military Responders (2018)

**Best Practice:** Extra-regional militaries support their respective governments' civilian lead agencies as well as affected state's / states' national and local structures for coordination.

## Typhoon Yagi (2024)

In September 2024, Typhoon Yagi, known as Severe Tropical Storm Enteng in the Philippines, struck multiple regional countries. Photo 3 shows Cyclone Yagi after it struck the Philippines and as it churned toward Vietnam and the PRC.<sup>39</sup> The storm first made landfall on 2 September 2024 in the Philippines. It then moved on to the PRC and Vietnam, where it made landfall on 7 September. Remnants of the storm then combined with the southwestern monsoon to bring

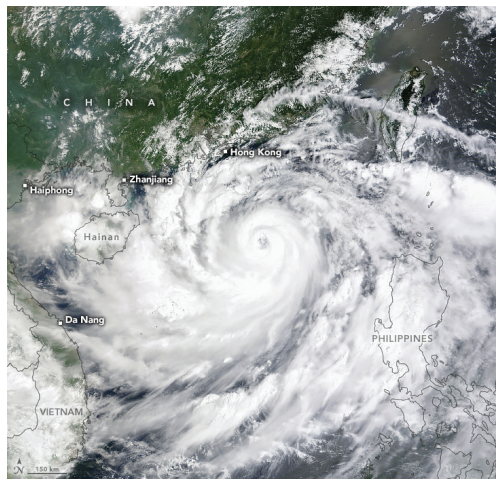


Photo 3: NASA Satellite Photo of Cyclone Yagi

heavy rains to Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand.<sup>40</sup>

In the Philippines, the storm killed 21 people, disrupted power and telecom services, and prompted school closures. In Vietnam, 26 provinces were affected; more than 300 people were killed, and 235,000 homes were damaged. In Myanmar, 320,000 people were displaced and 113 were killed.<sup>41</sup> In Laos, four people were killed and more than 165,000 were affected, and in Thailand, flooding and landslides linked to the storm killed 42 people.<sup>42</sup>

The response to TC Yagi reflected preparedness actions and local or national capacity that several AMS had built in recent years. Requests to the AHA Centre were precise and limited to only the items or expertise needed immediately. During the response to Yagi:

- Philippines requested DELSA stocks from local warehouses and distributed them using local resources
- Vietnam requested DELSA stocks and worked with the UN to build response plans; UN OCHA communicated with AHA Centre
- Laos worked via the UN Resident Coordinator and requested ASEAN-ERAT for technical support, especially data management
- Myanmar requested both ASEAN-ERAT and DELSA; the UN ran assessments and managed coordination with the AHA Centre
- Thailand's NDMO requested non-food items from DELSA stockpiles<sup>43</sup>

Along with other international donors, the U.S. government, led by USAID, delivered immediate funding to humanitarian partners in affected countries, especially Vietnam,<sup>44</sup> the Philippines,<sup>45</sup> and Myanmar.<sup>46</sup> No U.S. military forces participated.

## Typhoon Krathon (Julian) and KAMANDAG 8

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) identified a tropical depression on 28 September 2024. That system became Tropical Cyclone Krathon, known locally in the Philippines as Super Typhoon Julian, and it intensified through 30 September as its outer bands began to affect northern districts of the Philippines' Luzon.<sup>47</sup> Over the next few days, the storm delivered violent winds and heavy rains to Cagayan Province and the remote Batanes Islands. Local authorities ordered evacuations as infrastructure was damaged and affected communities began to suffer food insecurity. Philippines' civilian authorities made a request for international assistance from the U.S., and the U.S. Secretary of Defense directed U.S. INDOPACOM to support USAID efforts to deliver relief to affected people.<sup>48</sup>

The U.S. Government, through USAID BHA, provided an initial US\$500,000 to an implementing partner for immediate humanitarian supplies and logistical support. On 4 October, the U.S. Secretary of Defense responded to a USAID/

BHA request for support and authorized DoD support to HADR operations for 10 days. From 7 October, for five days, the U.S. DoD mobilized multiple military assets to provide logistics support to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippines' Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in transporting humanitarian supplies from Manila to Batanes.<sup>49</sup> Photo 4 shows U.S. and Philippines forces managing USAID-donated supplies in Batanes.<sup>50</sup>



Photo 4: Military Personnel Move Relief Supplies

Just two weeks after the storm struck, the military forces of six countries converged on the Philippines for exercise KAMANDAG 8. Among the U.S. forces involved in the drill were Marines and Sailors who had participated in the operation to deliver relief to communities in northern Luzon and the Batanes Islands where Krathon (Julian) hit. For two weeks, ending on 25 October 2024, these Marines and Sailors worked with Philippines Marines as well as service members from the French Armed Forces, Royal Thai Marine Corps, Indonesian Marine Corps, Australian Defence Force, British Armed Forces, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, and Republic of Korea Marine Corps, to strengthen military-military partnerships and interoperability. Exercise KAMANDAG 8 focused on defense and humanitarian capabilities. Participants engaged in activities including chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear response; HADR; unmanned aerial systems use; small boat operations; logistics; civil-military operations; coastal defense; and command and control processes.<sup>51</sup>

**Best Practice:** Maintain knowledge of partner military forces' capabilities and capacity in case a routine engagement becomes an emergency response.

U.S. and Philippines armed forces participate in multiple annual exercises; some of these engagements also integrate additional AMS military forces and other regional partners. The habitual bilateral military relationship has laid the foundation for swift and efficient bilateral military support to civilian authorities during a humanitarian emergency.

# Conclusion

Three scenarios tend to emerge from recent large-scale disaster responses in the ASEAN region:

1. Most common – multiple states are affected and request specific logistics or relief assistance, coordinated by AHA Centre
2. Common – individual affected states work with key bilateral partners' civilian and military agencies to respond to large-scale hazard incidents
3. Least common – full-scale activation of SG-AHAC and ASEAN civilian and military stakeholders

The trans-boundary character of Typhoon Yagi is expected to be the norm for emergencies in the coming decades, especially as climate change-influenced hydrometeorological hazards do not stop at national borders. The response to Yagi is also expected to reflect the norm for the ASEAN region. Amidst bolstered local capacity, affected states are expected to make tailored requests for assistance from the AHA Centre and the international community. Requests for foreign military assistance may wane substantially within this region.

The best scenario may, in fact, be for non-ASEAN military forces to engage with AMS' military forces and ASEAN agencies in the pre-disaster stage to promote long-term sustainability and to cultivate national and local capabilities. Meanwhile, the AHA Centre continues to examine ways to integrate non-ASEAN militaries into preparedness and anticipatory and climate change actions.<sup>52</sup> In the end, AMS and ASEAN entities, especially the AHA Centre, have important informational and practical resources and experience, and the AMS are committed to solidarity with each other. This commitment means ensuring that they learn from and practice with other experts, including practitioners from international agencies, extra-regional civilian and military authorities, and civil society. In a November 2024 meeting held by the AHA Centre with both military and civilian representation from the AMS, all parties agreed for the need to conduct more exercises to ensure that theory can be translated into practice.<sup>53</sup>

For U.S. stakeholders, USAID maintains strong programming and links within AMS, and it is more commonly involved in DM than the U.S. DoD. U.S. DoD offices and agencies can continue to build their partnerships with ASEAN as a whole and with the AMS in regular multilateral and bilateral engagements. By doing so, U.S. armed forces can build their understanding of the regional structures in place to support AMS during disasters. This way, when DoD unique capabilities are requested by USAID, they will be able to effectively and efficiently work with regional partners.

# Endnotes

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